

**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES  
AND CULTURE****COMMUNITY LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE - OFSTED INSPECTION  
REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the new Community Learning and Skills Service's provision.
2. To report on the outcome of the OfSTED inspection of the provision of the Community Learning and Skills Service undertaken between 11 & 15 May 2015.

**Information and Advice**

3. The Nottinghamshire Community Learning and Skills Service (CLASS) was formed on 5 May 2015 following a merger of the Adult and Community Learning Service and the Skills for Employment Service. It is led by the Team Manager, Learning and Skills.
4. The service directly delivers a range of vocational Study Programmes to young people aged between 16 and 18 years from six centres across the County. Provision includes: Horticulture; Health and Social Care; Construction; Hospitality and Catering; and Functional Skills programmes that are designed to maximise the employability of the young learners. Provision is funded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) an agency of the Department for Education. Delivery is from six centres across Nottinghamshire, including Retford, Ollerton, MyPlace in Mansfield, Eastbourne House in Sutton in Ashfield, Eastwood and Stapleford.
5. Recruits to the Study Programmes are young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). These vulnerable young people achieve a positive progression rate from the service with 68% moving into further relevant training and employment. 59% of these learners are categorised as having Lifelong Learning, Disabilities and Difficulties (LLDD).
6. The service commissions community learning for adults across Nottinghamshire, funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), an agency of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, from over 40 local learning providers. Contracts vary from small grants of up to £10,000 made to local voluntary and community learning providers, up to large commissioned contracts of over £500,000 with Further Education Colleges and other large providers.

7. Recruits to community learning are adults aged over 19 years of age. Provision is targeted on residents from the 250 super output areas across Nottinghamshire, and in the 2014/15 academic year over 69% of learners were recruited from these areas.
8. The Adult and Community Learning Service (along with Skills for Employment) was last inspected in November 2012 and was judged to be a 'Good' service (Grade 2).
9. Ofsted inspections rate provision as: Grade 1 – "Outstanding"; Grade 2 – "Good"; Grade 3 – "Requires Improvement"; and Grade 4 "Inadequate".
10. The five day inspection was undertaken between 11 & 15 May 2015 and six inspectors were involved, including two HMIs (Her Majesty's Inspectors). Inspectors focused upon and graded: the Study Programme (i.e. the Skills for Employment provision directly delivered for learners aged between 16 and 18 years); the Community Learning Programme (i.e. the Personal Community Learning and Development provision commissioned from a variety of local providers for adults aged over 19 years); and Family Learning (i.e. the Wider Family Learning and Family English, Mathematics and Languages provision commissioned from a variety of providers targeting adults aged over 19 and their children – where they learn together in joint classes). In addition, the Inspectors provided grades for: Outcomes for Learners; the Quality of Teaching Learning and Assessment; Leadership and Management and finally they provided a grade for the Overall Effectiveness of provision.
11. The Ofsted grades for the service were as follows:
  - i. Study Programme – Skills for Employment: Grade 2 "Good".  
This was an improvement from 2012 when this provision was judged to be Grade 3 "Requires Improvement"
  - ii. Community Learning: Grade 2 "Good"  
This was judged to be Grade 2 "Good" in 2012
  - iii. Family Learning: Grade 1 "Outstanding"  
This was an improvement from 2012 when this provision was judged to be Grade 2 "Good"
  - iv. Outcomes for Learners: Grade 2 "Good"  
This was judged to be Grade 2 "Good" in 2012
  - v. The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Grade 2 "Good"  
This was judged to be Grade 2 "Good" in 2012
  - vi. Leadership and Management: Grade 2 "Good"  
This was judged to be Grade 2 "Good" in 2012
  - vii. Overall Effectiveness: Grade 2 "Good"  
This was judged to be Grade 2 "Good" in 2012.
12. Since the last inspection in November 2012, the Skills for Employment provision has improved from a Grade 3 to a Grade 2 and the Family Learning provision has improved

from a Grade 2 to a Grade 1. All the other grades have stayed the same. This means that overall, the provision is still judged to be a Grade 2, but there are now outstanding features.

13. The Ofsted inspection report summarises the key findings for learners as:
  - i. a majority of study programme learners, most of whom have a very wide range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities, go on to further education, training or employment
  - ii. the development of personal, social and employability skills is good; those on non-accredited courses achieve their learning aims well and make good progress, and employability training learners improve their work readiness
  - iii. tutors have high expectations for all learners regardless of their previous attainment; as a consequence, learners are highly motivated, enjoy learning and make good progress
  - iv. tutors provide good personal and academic support to meet learners' needs, especially on employability programmes; they know learners well and are sensitive to their needs
  - v. learners receive high quality advice and guidance; tutors identify learners' prior attainment and aspirations accurately, resulting in learners being on the right course at the right level
  - vi. curriculum managers have maintained, and in many cases improved significantly, a responsive curriculum that meets the needs of young people not in education, employment or training, as well as those of employers in the region
  - vii. the service manages the performance of subcontractors rigorously and rightly concentrates its efforts on ensuring that learners achieve well and that any weaknesses are swiftly addressed.
14. Areas for improvement for CLASS were identified as:
  - i. managers do not monitor sufficiently well the effectiveness of community learning and the family learning programme by gathering accurate information on the destination of leavers
  - ii. short-term target setting for learners is often weak, especially for targets related to the development of personal learning and thinking skills
  - iii. managers do not monitor sufficiently the suitability of training and development that sub-contractors provide for tutors on its programmes
  - iv. targets for the frequency and volume of observations of tutors working for sub-contractors have not been met.
15. An improvement plan will be developed following the inspection with the aim of moving the service to Grade 1 "Outstanding".
16. A copy of the full report is available at the link below and previous reports are also available on the Ofsted website.  
<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/53674>

### **Other Options Considered**

17. The report is for noting only.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

18. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Implications for Service Users**

20. Service users can be confident that they are accessing provision that has been quality assured by an independent inspection framework and process. Recommendations for improvement in **paragraph 14** will be implemented with learners and staff as appropriate.

## **Financial Implications**

21. CLASS is a full cost recovery based service. There are no specific financial implications following the inspection, apart from strengthening the likelihood that the service will be able to retain and increase the size of its EFA and SFA funding provision unless there is a large scale reduction in funding from central Government.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

22. The inspection highlighted good practice in promoting equality and diversity and states: "Learners benefit from a thorough introduction to equality and diversity at induction. CLASS recruits learners from a very diverse range of communities across the county and learners are respectful and supportive of each other's' differences during learning sessions. Staff are sensitive to learners' individual needs and create a safe environment that supports good learning."

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

23. The use of local community venues limits the need for learners to travel.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the overview of the new Community Learning and Skills Service's provision be noted
- 2) the report on the outcome of the OfSTED inspection of the provision of the Community Learning and Skills Service undertaken between 11 & 15 May 2015 be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

24. As this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required

### **Financial Comments (SS 25/08/15)**

25. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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